



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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**VERMONT MAN PLEADS  
GUILTY TO COCAINE DISTRIBUTION**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Assistant Commissioner of Safety Earl Sweeney, announced that Joshua L. Bassett, age 20, of White River Junction, Vermont pled guilty today in U.S. District Court in connection with the Possession of MDMA (Ecstasy) with Intent to Distribute on August 13, 2003. Bassett admitted his guilt to the charge during a hearing before U. S. District Judge Steven J. McAuliffe. He was detained pending a sentencing hearing which is scheduled for May 20, 2004.

If convicted Bassett could face a maximum prison term of up to 20 years and fines of up to \$1 million.

United States Attorney Colantuono stated, "Club drugs, such as MDMA, also known as Ecstasy, are a growing threat in our state which we take very seriously. This dangerous drug can cause severe hyperthermia (overheating), dehydration, and occasionally, death. My office will continue to commit appropriate federal resources to club drug investigations and prosecutions."

The successful prosecution of this case resulted from the efforts of the New Hampshire State Police. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert J. Veiga.